

Appl. No. 09/980,960
Amdt. dated August 18, 2004
Reply to Office action of May 18, 2004

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 1-31 were present in the application. Claims 10, 15-19, 21-23, 25-27 and 29-31 are amended herein. Claims 14, 20, 24 and 28 are canceled. Claims 1-13 were allowed. Claims 19, 23, 25 and 29 were indicated as allowable if rewritten.

Claim 10 was objected to. Applicants thank the Examiner for providing the suggested correction to overcome the objection. That correction has been made herein.

The Examiner noted that claims 19, 23, 25 and 29 were allowable if rewritten to independent form, including all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. These claims are so rewritten herein.

Claims 14-18, 20-22, 24, 26-28, 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP 7-336138 in view of JP 60-136156 in view of EP 0661805 and further in view of JP48-44755.

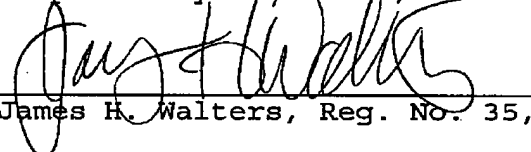
To simplify the issues and put the application into form for allowance, applicants have canceled the rejected independent claims 14, 20, 24 and 28 without prejudice to the right to file continuing applications directed to the subject matter of the canceled claims. The respective claims dependent thereon (15-18, 21, 22, 25-27, 30 and 31) that were not rewritten to independent form have been amended to depend from the respective

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allowable claims 19, 23, 25 and 29. These claims are also
therefore allowable as depending from allowable claims.

In light of the above noted amendments and remarks, this
application is believed in condition for allowance and notice
thereof is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is asked to
contact applicant's attorney at 503-224-0115 if there are any
questions.

Respectfully submitted,


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